A Child's OUR FATHER

by Elisabeth Nalder

For my very dear Dottee Caroline

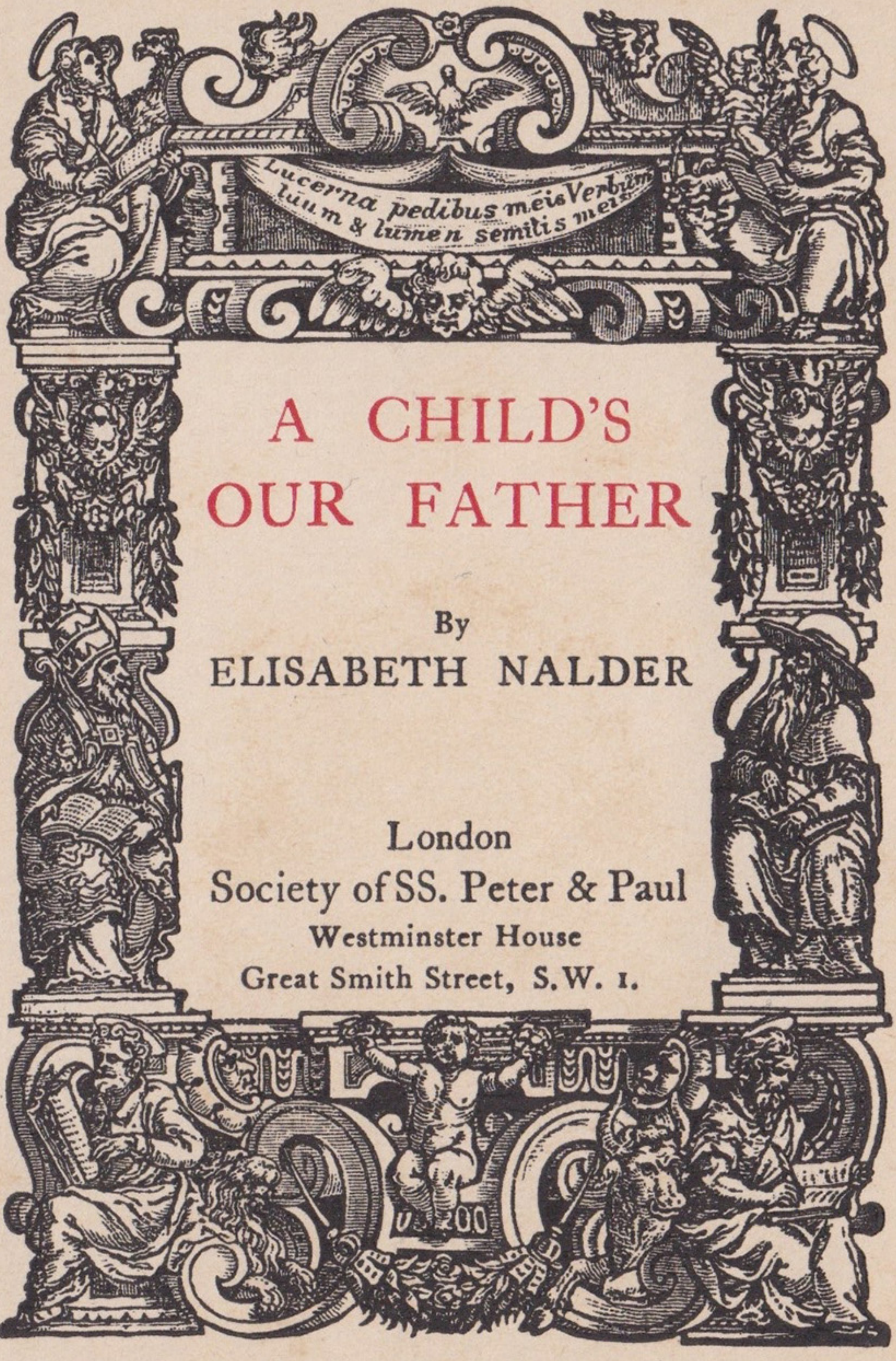
from Mount Calvary S. S.

with love from her

Sister Caroline

S. H. B.

For Easter, 1927.



A CHILD'S OUR FATHER

By

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TO ANY CHILD

AND EVERY CHILD

WHO PRAYS

THE

OUR FATHER,

AND ESPECIALLY

TO THE CHILDREN

WHO PRAY IT DAILY WITH ME

MY DEAR CHILDREN,

One Sunday evening in a little village Church I listened to some teaching on the " Our Father " prayer. There were many grown-up people in Church but I did not notice any children. As I listened, " a little white thought " came to me and would not leave me. This thought reminded me that not only grown-ups but all Christian children the whole world over pray the " Our Father."

The thought then became a wonder, a thought of wonder that the same prayer could be used alike by people all over the world, however different they may be, young and old, rich and poor, clever and simple. I wondered also how many of God's children who pray this prayer understand what a wonderful prayer it is, for in it is everything that anyone can ever want to pray for or pray about.

Next the thought became a wish. I wished that I could do something to help the children who say this prayer to understand and love it more. If everyone who says the " Our Father " could understand it and

mean it in thought and heart and life what a much better and happier place this world would be. So out of that "little white thought" this book came to be made.

You know that if you were given a beautiful posy of flowers you would look at it carefully and notice each different flower in it and all the lovely colours and scents. The "Our Father" is like a beautiful posy of spiritual flowers which has been given to all Christian children who hold up hands of prayer. I have tried to show you these different flowers of prayer, and I hope that when you offer them back to God Who loves to have his children bring him back his gifts, their beauty, meaning and fragrance will not only be on your lips as spoken words but also remain an abiding power in your lives.

E. N.

Prestbury,
1922.

" Beneath the Cross a little child I stand."

DEAR JESUS

As I kneel before thy Cross
And see thee hanging there
For love of me and all the world,
Teach me and help me
To pray aright
The perfect prayer
Which thou didst teach us to pray.
May I understand it with my mind,
Speak it truthfully with my lips,
And live it in my life,
To the honour and glory
Of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The little Lord Jesus was born a King, a King among children.

OUR FATHER

I WAS made a child of God
At my Baptism,
And since I have been baptized
I can call God my Father.
I thank my Heavenly Father
For making me his child ;
I will try to live as a child of God should live ;
I will try not to disobey or grieve
My Heavenly Father.

But God is not only *my* Father,
He is Our Father ;
I am a member of a large Family,
The Holy Catholic Church,
And in this family
All God's children the whole world over
Are my brothers and sisters.
I must not only pray for myself
But also for them.
And when I look at Jesus dying on the Cross
To save all his Father's children,
And when I see his Arms outstretched
In love and sorrow for us all,

I learn the lesson of love,
Love for God our Father,
And love for all God's children.

WHICH ART IN HEAVEN

When I look at the Cross
On which Jesus died for me
I see that although it is fixed in the ground
The top part points to heaven.
Then I remember
That our Father is in heaven
And that heaven is the real home of his children.
There is a ladder which I must climb
From earth to heaven.
At my baptism my baby feet
Were placed on the first rung ;
By God's good gifts and graces
I am helped all through my life
To go on climbing higher up this ladder
Until I reach the top,
And step off it into my Heavenly Home.
I like to think of my Heavenly Home ;
There everything is beautiful,
And wonderful,

And good.
Heaven is holy
And nothing that is not holy can enter there.
I am not worthy to enter heaven
Because I often sin.
But Jesus died upon the Cross
To save me from my sins,
And so I may hope
Through him to enter heaven.
Heaven is a happy home
And happy children play there in the golden streets ;
Nothing can spoil the happiness of heaven.
How happy I ought to be
That such a home is waiting for me.
I need not wait until I die,
I can begin to make heaven on earth.
Every time I do something
To make the world a happier place,
Every time I conquer sin
And grow in holiness,
As I learn to love God more,
And to love others for his sake,
I am helping to make heaven on earth.
And so all the way to heaven
Can be heaven.

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

Over the Head of Jesus
As he hung upon the Cross
A Name was written,—
" Jesus of Nazareth."
This Name was written in three different languages,
In Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.
When I pray, " Hallowed be thy Name "
I must want the Name of God
To be kept holy
Not only by me
And the people who speak my language,
But also by people who speak different languages
All over the world.
Jesus died upon the Cross
That all mankind might be saved from sin
And might hallow God's Name.

I must hallow God's Name
In thought and word and deed ;
I must never say the Name
Of any person of the Holy Trinity
Carelessly.
I must never be irreverent

In Church or at Prayer.
I can hallow God's Name
At home, at school, and at play
By never doing anything
I should be ashamed for God to see,
Remembering that God's Holy Eyes
Are on me all the while.

And when I go out into God's Garden of Nature
And think how all its sweet sights and sounds
Were made by God,
The flowers and trees and fields seem holy,
And in the happy song of birds,
And in the whisper of little breezes
I seem to hear
" Holy, holy, holy ;
Hallowed be thy Name."

THY KINGDOM COME

THE figure of Jesus hanging on the Cross
Is the figure of a King
Who wears a Crown,
But it is a Crown of Thorns,
Thorns of suffering worn for my sins.
When the little Lord Jesus was born
In a stable at Bethlehem
He was born a King,
A King among children,
And his Blessed Mother was a Queen,
A Queen among mothers.
All through his life on earth
He showed us what it means to be a King;
It is to serve others.
"I am among you as he that serveth."
In his death upon the Cross
He gave for us the greatest service.
He gave his life for us
That we might not be kept by sin
From coming into his Kingdom.
Jesus is reigning now a King in heaven,
And he has prepared a place for me
In his Kingdom.

I will also prepare a place for him to reign
King in my heart ;
I will not let sin dethrone him.
And because I am the child of a King
I am called to be a king myself ;
God has promised a crown
To all who serve him faithfully.

I must also remember
That " Thy Kingdom come "
Is a prayer for all the heathen
To be brought into God's Kingdom :
God's Church is Catholic ;—
That means for all the world.
But there are many heathen people
Who have never heard about God,
Who have never been baptized.
I hope my little prayer
Will help to bring them the Good News ;
For even a child
May help to spread God's Kingdom.

THY WILL BE DONE IN EARTH

JESUS said,
" I came not to do my own Will
But the Will of him that sent me."
He suffered upon the Cross
To do his Father's Will,
That the world which had become a kingdom of sin
Might become God's kingdom.
So the Cross helps me to understand the prayer
" Thy Will be done."

When I look at the Cross
I see that one beam goes right across the other.
This makes me think
That if man's will had never crossed
God's Will
There need have been no Cross.
My will must not go across God's Will,
But side by side with it.
The Will of God for me on earth
Is that I should give up sin,
And try to grow daily
More like the Pattern set before me
In Jesus Christ.

How often I want to have my own will,
And push God's Will aside.
But if I pray this prayer aright
I must be ready to give up anything
To the Will of God,
Even as Christ gave up his Life ;
This is self-denial ;
This is the way of the Cross.
And so I offer my will to my Heavenly Father
And ask him to make it one with his.
So shall God's Will be done on earth
By me his obedient child.

AS IT IS IN HEAVEN

It is often difficult
To know and do God's Will on earth,
But in the many mansions of heaven
All the heavenly hosts
Delight to do God's Will,
And worship him in the beauty of holiness.
The shining Seraphim and Cherubim
Cast down their golden crowns before the Throne of
God.
The holy angels who are God's messengers
Fly swiftly to and fro to do his Will;
Among them is my own Guardian Angel;
It is God's Will that he should watch over me.
How wonderful it is to think
That a child like me should have as guardian
An angel who looks upon the Face of God.
There are also great multitudes
Of white-robed saints
Who did God's Will on earth,
And now are allowed to join
In the worship of heaven.
Their prayers and praises rise
Like sweet-smelling incense

Around the Feet of God.
I like to think that their prayers may help me,
And that I can join my prayers with theirs.

Before I can be fit to worship God in heaven
I must learn to worship him on earth ;
I must learn to be loving,
For God is Love ;
I must learn to be holy,
For God is holy.
By worship, love and holiness
God's Will can best be done in earth
As it is in heaven.

GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD

THERE are many things to think of
When I say this prayer.
" Daily Bread " means all the needs of my body day by day,
Food, and clothes, and comforts
To keep my body well and strong.
It is right for me to take care of my body

Because it is the work of God's creation,
The temple of the Holy Spirit.

I must be thankful for my Daily Bread
And say my Grace for it
Because God gives it me.
And I must be content with what I get
And trust that God will always give
Just what I need.
But " Give us " means not only myself but others ;
I must not be selfish and think only of self.
There are many poor people all over the world—
Some even may be starving—
Who do not know how their daily bread is coming ;
I must think of them when I say this prayer.
And because my own daily bread comes easily to me,
Without toil or trouble of mine,
I must always try to be generous
And give to the needs of others.

I must think also of the people
Who toil to give us our daily needs ;
Without their daily work
How little I should have.
And so for the farmer in the field,

The fisher on the sea,
And all the workers in mills and shops
I make this prayer.

But this prayer has another more wonderful meaning.
I must remember now Jesus said,
" I am the Bread of Life."
And when I look upon the Cross
I think how he gave his Body to be broken
To feed and save our souls,
Just as our bodies are saved from starvation
By our daily bread.
In the Blessed Sacrament of Holy Communion
He gives us the Bread of Life
As our spiritual food,
And he has promised to dwell in everyone
Who with true faith and love
Receives this holy Food.
Lord Jesus, make me ready
For this great gift of thine.

FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES

My trespasses are my sins.
I know I need forgiveness
For all my many sins ;
But it is only when I look at Jesus
Dying on the Cross
That I can understand
How great is my need to be forgiven.
My sins of thought and word and deed
Helped to nail my Saviour to the Cross.

Jesus wears upon his head
A Crown of Thorns ;
All my wrong and sinful thoughts
Are like the thorns
Which pierced and wounded
The head of Jesus.
The Hands of Jesus are pierced through
By cruel nails ;
I need to be forgiven
For many selfish acts and deeds
In which my hands have helped.
The pierced Feet of Jesus
Remind me how often I have wandered away

From the path of goodness.
The Last Words from the Lips of Jesus
Were Words of Love and Forgiveness.
How much I need forgiveness
For all my sinful words.
The Sacred Heart of Jesus,
So full of love for sinners,
Is wounded by a spear ;
I need his Forgiveness
For all my lack of love.

And so before thy Cross, dear Jesus,
I confess my sins
And ask to be forgiven.
I am very sorry ;
I will try not to sin again.
Wash my soul quite white and clean,
Like a spotless snowdrop
Growing in God's Garden.

AS WE FORGIVE THEM THAT TRESPASS AGAINST US

As Jesus hung upon the Cross
He forgave his enemies ;
" Father, forgive them," was his prayer.
And so must I forgive
If I would be forgiven.
I must not be angry with others
When they annoy me ;
I must not sulk
When they do not please me ;
I must not want to hurt
Those who would hurt me.
Not thus is God's good child.
But since I am forgiven
How glad I ought to be
For any chance to give
What has been given to me.
If others are unkind to me
This shall be my little Cross
To bear for Jesus' sake.

Forgiveness is a sweetly scented flower,
And as the scent of flowers upon the wind

Sweetens an unlovely place,
I will be like a little breeze
And bear where it is needed most
The fragrance of forgiveness.
Where things unlovely hurt and heat and harm.

Beneath the Cross a little child I stand
And like it hold on high each open hand;
With one I take forgiveness full and free;
The other gives it where its need may be.

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

THE Catechism tells me what this means;
It tells me to pray
"That it will please God to save and defend us
In all dangers
Ghostly [*that is* spiritual]
And bodily."
I am often tempted to do wrong,
And then I am in danger.
Three great enemies tempt me to sin,
The World, the Flesh, and the Devil.

I must remember my Baptism Promise
To fight against these
As a faithful soldier of Christ.
There is no sin in being tempted,
Only in giving way to temptation.
God will not suffer a weak child like me
To be tempted more than I am able to bear,
So I ask him to help me
When I am tempted.

Sometimes the temptation sent is a test
To try how strong I am ;
A trouble may come, or God may think best
To take away something I like ;
This will test what my character is like.
I will not grumble, or fret, or be cross ;
I will pray to be patient, obedient, and brave,
Like Abraham and many other saints
Who were obedient to God
When called on to give up what dearly they loved.
I must remember
That Jesus Himself was tempted by Satan
To help me bear temptation.
And as Jesus was strengthened by an angel,
So my guardian angel will help me

When I am tempted.
There must be many strengthening angels ;
I like to think of them flying forth
To help those who are tempted.
I shut my eyes and try to feel their wings
Beating above my head.
Shining angels, swift and strong,
Ye who to God's will belong,
When we tempted are to wrong,
Shelter and protect us.

DELIVER US FROM EVIL

THE word " Evil " makes me feel afraid.
There is so much evil that may happen
To a child like me,
Evil of body, mind, and soul.
Evil comes from the Devil ;
The Devil is so very strong
And I am very weak.
I cannot deliver myself from evil,
And so I turn to God
And ask him to deliver me ;

And not me only
But all whom I love
And for whom I ought to pray.
God is stronger than the Devil.

So when before the Cross I kneel
And God's presence close I feel,
Underneath those sheltering Arms
Nothing evil hurts or harms ;
Deliverance comes from evil.

THINE IS THE KINGDOM, THE POWER, AND THE GLORY

When I worship God
I must not only do so by prayer
But also by praise.
I must not only want to get something,
But also to give something.
God loves to receive from his children
The gift of praise and thanksgiving ;
How much there is for which I ought to thank
God.

I thank God for the beauty and wonder
Of his Kingdom of Nature ;
For the big blue sky and the sunshine gold,
And the solemn shining stars
Keeping watch through the long dark night.
I thank God for his gift of flowers,
For the gladness of green fields,
And friendly sheltering trees ;
For all the animals and birds,
So useful and so interesting ;
They are part of God's great family
And show his Power and Glory.
I thank God for my friends,
For those who love and help me most.
For lessons, play, and food,
I offer praise to God.
And when I try to think
How much more there is
For which I should thank God,
I feel my little heart
Is hardly large enough to hold
The gratitude I owe.

But chiefly I give thanks and praise
For the love of God the Father

In making me his child,
A member of his Holy Church,
An inheritor of his Kingdom ;
For the gift of Jesus Christ my Saviour
Who died for me upon the Cross ;
For the Power of God the Holy Spirit
Which helps me to be good.
With my lips and in my life
I will show forth God's praise.
Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost :
As it was in the beginning,
Is now,
And ever shall be,
World without end.

FOR EVER AND EVER

How wonderful it is to think
That God has ever been,
And ever is,
And ever shall be.
Before the world was made

God was God ;
And when this world has passed away
God will remain,
For God is Eternal.

I also am Eternal ;
I come from God,
And when my life on earth is done
I shall go back to God.
How wonderful to think
That God cares so for a child like me
That he has made me to live for ever and ever.
My body will one day die,
But my soul will never die.
And because Jesus rose from the dead
I also shall rise again
On the Resurrection Day,
And my soul will dwell
In a beautiful Resurrection body,
A body without pain or stain of sin.
As I am to live for ever
How careful I must be
To keep myself pure and spotless,
Free from sin,
Worthy to live for ever.

And so I end the perfect prayer
That Jesus taught us how to pray
With thanking God for his great gift
Of Everlasting Life,
To hold and keep
For ever and for evermore.

Amen.

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